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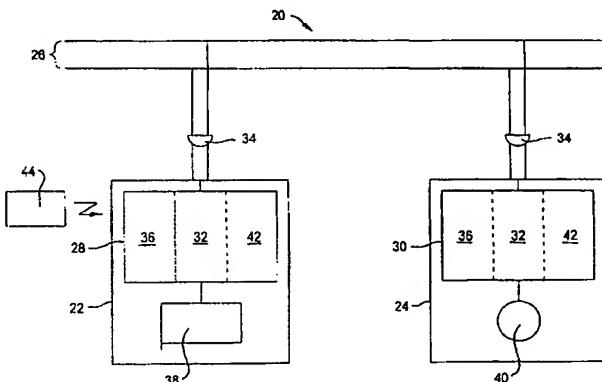
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(54) Title: THEFT DETERRENCE SECURITY SYSTEM



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(57) Abstract: A security system (20) for not enabling, enabling or disabling electrical devices for deterring theft, or preventing unauthorised use, of such devices. The security system comprises a plurality of electrical devices (22, 24) which are operationally linked via a bi-directional communication medium, which may be via a mains power supply (26) or a microwave or radiowave medium. Each electrical device includes a programmable means (28, 30) for controlling operation of the operative parts (38, 40) of the electrical devices. Each programmable means has a signal transmitting and receiving means (32) associated with it for transmitting and receiving control signals over the communication medium (26), with the programmable means (28) of one of the electrical devices (22) being programmed as a controller for the other electrical device(s) (24). Preferably the controller is provided via an electrical appliance which includes a data entry facility (44) for its programmable means (28) and the programmable means (28) is programmed both to operate the electrical appliance as such (42-38), and to provide the controller functions (36) for the security system (20). Various security functions for the security system are disclosed involving bi-directional communications between electrical devices which in the event of a security breach involving one device may result in all of the devices being rendered inoperative.